

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 L-02

ACDA-05 DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OIC-02

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R 131733Z FEB 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 690

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

,O/AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH 170

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USDEL JEC PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.9. 11652: NA

TAGS: ICRC,PARM PFOR IZ TH GA AS SF SG AF PO NU CB

CZ VS MA IR UN

SUBJECT: LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE: CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE MEETING

REF: GENEVA 0764 (NOTAL)

1. THE CREDEINTALS COMMITTEE OF THE LAW OF WAR

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CONFERENCE HELD ITS FIRST MEETING OF THE 1975 SESSION

FEBRUARY 12 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF AMB. SANSON-ROMAN OF NICARAGUA. DUE IN PART TO HIS SKILLFUL HANDLING, THE MEETING WENT SMOOTHLY. ANTICIPATED CONTROVERSIES OVER RVN CREDENTIALS AND THE CREDENTIALS OF SOME RVN SUPPORTERS DID NOT MATERIALIZE, BUT RESERVATIONS WERE MADE FOR THE RECORD.

2. SANSON-ROMAN NOTED THAT EIGHT STATES HAD NOT DESIGNED DEL HEADS AND THEREFORE COULD NOT BE REGARDED AS HAVING VALID CREDENTIALS. THESE STATES WERE ALL ABSENT FOR LAST WEEK'S VOTING ON THE PRG ISSUE BUT HAD NEVER ANNOUNCED NON-PARTICIPATION IN THE SESSION. THEY ARE: BOTSWANA, BURUNDI, CAMEROO, GUINEA-BISSAU, KENYA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN, TANZANIA, ZAMBIA.

3. SANSON-ROMAN ALSO STATED THAT THE CREDENTIALS OF EIGHTEEN OTHER STATES WERE NOT IN PROPER ORDER. HOWEVER, RECALLING THAT THE CZECH DELEGATE HAD QUESTIONED THE CREDENTIALS OF GAMBIA IN PLENARY FEBRUARY 5 (GENEVA 726 NOTAL), HE ANNOUNCED THAT GAMBIA'S CREDENTIALS WERE NOW IN GOOD ORDER. HE SUGGESTED THAT ALL COUNTRIES HAVING A CREDENTIALS PROBLEM BE GIVEN FURTHER TIME TO REGULARIZE THEIR STATUS, AND THAT THE COMMITTEE SHOULD MEET WITHIN TWO WEEKS TO REVIEW THE MATTER. THIS WAS ACCEPTED BY CONSENSUS. ALL THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY INFORMED OF THEIR DEFICIENCIES.

4. THE CHAIRMAN READ A LETTER HE HAD RECEIVED FROM A REP OF THE IRAQI KURDISTAN MOVEMENT REQUESTING OBSERVER STATUS IN THE CONFERENCE. AFTER BRIEF DISCUSSION, A CONSENSUS WAS REACHED ACCEPTING A US OPINION THAT THIS WAS AN INVITATION PROBLEM, NOT A CREDENTIALS PROBLEM. SANSON-ROMAN WILL SEND THE LETTER TO THE SEC GEN OF THE CONFERENCE FOR STUDY. (NOTE: IRAQ, THOUGH A MEMBER OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE, WAS NOT PRESENT AT THIS MEETING).

5. SEVERAL DELEGATES REPEATED POLITICALLY MOTIVATED RESERVATIONS FROM LAST YEAR ABOUT THE "CREDENTIALS" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF SOME PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES, DESPITE THE OBSERVATIONS OF THE US, THAILAND, AND AUSTRALIA THAT THIS IS NOT THE PROPER CONCERN OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE. THESE RESERVATIONS WERE LOW-KEY AND CLEARLY FOR THE RECORD ONLY. CZECHOSLOVAKIA, MADAGASCAR, AND SENEGAL PROTESTED THE CREDENTIALS OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. MADAGASCAR AND SENEGAL CRITICIZED THOSE OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC. MADAGASCAR WITHDREW A

PREVIOUS RESERVATION ABOUT PORTUGAL, AND SENEGAL TOOK
"DUE ACCOUNT" OF THE CHANGES IN THAT COUNTRY.
MADAGASCAR AND SELEGAL FOUND IT NECESSARY TO DECLARE
THAT RESERVATIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA WERE
"SUPERFLUOUS" BECAUSE THAT COUNTRY IS ABSENT THIS YEAR.

6. SECOND SESSION OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE WILL
BE HELD IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS. DALE

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